United Nations A/54/799-S/2000/220

General Assembly
Security Council

Distr.: General
17 March 2000

Original: English

General Assembly
Fifty-fourth session
Agenda items 43 and 114
The situation in the Middle East

Elimination of racism and racial discrimination

Security Council
Fifty-fifth year

Letter dated 16 March 2000 from the Permanent Representative of Israel to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

I am writing to express my concern over the alarming campaign of anti-Israel and anti-Jewish incitement emanating from some Arab countries over recent weeks.

At the very time when intensive efforts are being made to advance the peace negotiations between Israel and its neighbours, this orchestrated campaign of inflammatory rhetoric has been intensified, including among countries party to the negotiations.

This propaganda campaign knows no bounds; demonization of the Israeli "enemy", anti-Semitism of the most heinous sort and Holocaust denial have emerged in full force. Diatribes which go far beyond current issues and which attack Israel's very existence, malign Jewish teaching and recycle anti-Semitic canards coincide with the ritual burning of effigies of Israel's leaders in order to galvanize popular emotions. The campaign does not refrain from advocating violence. Alarmingly, this rhetoric has been unleased by official organs, appearing in official and governmental media, including in countries party to negotiations with Israel.

The message, at times tacit but often explicit, permeates the public arena and fans the flames of hatred to worrisome levels.

It undermines the development of trust and confidence, which is essential for the Middle East peace negotiations to have any chance of success, and deals a heavy blow to hopes of reconciliation in the region.

All those in the Middle East who support peace — whether in Governments, official institutions or the media — should be called upon to halt the unbridled wave of hostility being propagated in some official Arab media.

I urge you to give wholehearted encouragement to this cause. Your unwavering stance against racism in all its forms, and the high regard in which your office is held, could lend critical support in the effort to halt this campaign of hatred, which is so destructive to the prospects for peace.

00-34881 (E) 200300

I should be grateful if you would have the present letter circulated as a document of the General Assembly, under agenda items 43 and 114, and of the Security Council.

(*Signed*) Yehuda **Lancry**
Ambassador
Permanent Representative

United Nations S/2000/221

Security Council

Distr.: General
6 April 2000

Original: English

Letter dated 15 March 2000 from the Permanent Representative of Armenia to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

I have the honour to forward to you herewith a statement issued by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Nagorno Karabagh (see annex).

I should be grateful if you would circulate the present letter and its annex as a document of the Security Council.

(*Signed*) Movses **Abelian**
Ambassador
Permanent Representative

00-38183 (E) 060400

Annex to the letter dated 15 March 2000 from the Permanent Representative of Armenia to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

Statement of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Nagorno-Karabagh Republic

The international community has been making diplomatic and political efforts directed towards the settlement of the Nagorno-Karabagh conflict for more than ten years. The task of the conflicting parties' authorities is to exercise restraint and tolerance, to support the positive tendencies in the society and not to launch actions that can undermine the fragile peace established in the region.

Unfortunately, we have to note that the Azerbaijani authorities are nevertheless systematically launching actions that create obstacles to the establishment of an atmosphere of mutual confidence and, thus, lasting peace and stability. The statement issued by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Azerbaijani Republic on 15 February 2000 and the new wave of the anti-Armenian propaganda within the country were the last actions in this category.

The statement of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Azerbaijani Republic made in connection with the measures used by the Government of the Nagorno-Karabagh Republic to involve private foreign capital in the local economy alleges that the programme for the economic development of the Nagorno-Karabagh Republic is directed towards the involvement of investors in the "occupied territories", which can negatively influence the peacemaking process.

The Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Nagorno-Karabagh Republic is convinced that the assertion can be easily rejected by the Co-Chairmen of the Organisation for Security and Cooperation in Europe (OSCE) Minsk Group, who are well aware of the real situation in the region, as well as by the personal representative of the OSCE Chairman-in-Office, whose Field Assistants Office is located in Stepanakert.

Urgent efforts have been made in the Nagorno-Karabagh Republic over the last year towards the maintenance of stability in the society, the consolidation of law and order and the creation of favourable conditions for the development of entrepreneurship, which has stimulated the serious interest of foreign financial and industrial circles in Nagorno-Karabagh. It is becoming extremely significant, in the circumstances, that none of the States of the world, except Armenia and the United States of America, assists the Nagorno-Karabagh Republic in resolving humanitarian problems.

The inadequate reaction of the Azerbaijani authorities to the actions of the Government of the Nagorno-Karabagh Republic and the aggressive character of the above-mentioned statement are probably conditioned by the fact that the Azerbaijani leadership believes that the reasons for and consequences of the conflict belong to twentieth century history. So we must note that in 1991-1994 the South Caucasus became an arena of the war unleashed by Azerbaijan itself, the consequences of which have not yet been overcome. Its results were destructive, especially for the people of the Nagorno-Karabagh Republic, about half of whose territory was occupied, and more than 50 per cent of the population became refugees and

displaced persons; in addition, about 450,000 Armenians were deported from Baku, Sumgait and other cities and villages of Azerbaijan.

During the war, the international organizations and parliaments of some countries repeatedly acknowledged the fact that a humanitarian disaster was occurring in Nagorno-Karabagh, but adequate measures were not used for its prevention. The situation is being aggravated by the illegal blockade of Nagorno-Karabagh and Armenia begun in 1989 by Azerbaijan, which not only irretrievably damages the economy, but also torpedoes the development of the integration processes in the South Caucasus region.

As is known, Azerbaijan has for two years rejected the peaceful proposals put forward by the OSCE Minsk Group Co-Chairmen and approved by Nagorno-Karabagh and Armenia. The proposals are admitted to be the most acceptable compromise basis for settlement of the conflict. This situation was noted in the resolution adopted by the European Parliament on 11 March 1999.

We are convinced that the irreconcilable position of Azerbaijan has proved who is actually and not declaratively seeking the peaceful settlement of the conflict. It has disclosed the real intentions of official Baku — to isolate Nagorno-Karabagh and to preserve and aggravate the economic and humanitarian crisis with the aim of displacing the autochthonal Armenian population from the region.

The Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Nagorno-Karabagh Republic, in its statements and memorandums (July 1998 and April 1999), drew the attention of the appropriate international organizations to the fact that an anti-Armenian mood and xenophobia were being aroused in Azerbaijan. Despite the fact that, on the assurance of the OSCE mediation mission, the Azerbaijani authorities were instructed on the inadmissibility of such a campaign, anti-Armenian propaganda in Azerbaijan is being developed further.

A special place is occupied by an article in the newspaper *Bakinski Rabochi* (24 February 2000), the founder of which is the Administrative Department of the President of Azerbaijan. The author of the article, the head of the President's executive staff and a Doctor of Philosophy, uses arguments taken from the anti-Semitism arsenal and offends both the national and religious feelings of the Armenian people.

In this connection, a number of natural questions occur — how does Azerbaijan imagine the peaceful settlement of the conflict under its current position; what fate are the authorities of the country preparing for the people of the Nagorno-Karabagh Republic; and, finally, how can the OSCE Minsk Group Co-Chairmen hope for success in their peacemaking mission in such circumstances?

The Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Nagorno-Karabagh Republic reassures international organizations and States, which are interested in the quickest possible final settlement of the Karabagh conflict, of the adherence of the Nagorno-Karabagh leadership to the principle of a political settlement of the problem and considers it

necessary to stress once more that the constructive mood of our people is indisputable evidence of its aspirations for peace and stability and its non-acceptance of war as a means of resolving any conflicts.

15 March 2000
Stepanakert

UNITED NATIONS **S**

Security Council

Distr.
GENERAL

S/2000/222
17 March 2000

ORIGINAL: ENGLISH

LETTER DATED 16 MARCH 2000 FROM THE CHARGÉ D'AFFAIRES A.I. OF THE PERMANENT MISSION OF YUGOSLAVIA TO THE UNITED NATIONS ADDRESSED TO THE PRESIDENT OF THE SECURITY COUNCIL

I have been instructed by my Government to inform you that, according to the data made available by the Ministry of Justice of the Yugoslav constituent Republic of Serbia, 1,330 persons, relocated from Kosovo and Metohija, the autonomous province of that Republic, were in penal-correctional institutions of Serbia on 9 March 2000. Prior to the arrival of the Kosovo Force (KFOR) and the establishment of the United Nations Interim Administration Mission in Kosovo (UNMIK), 2,025 persons (1,874 Albanians and 176 others) had been relocated from penal-correctional institutions in this Serbian province. Before 9 March 2000, 720 persons were released following the expiry of detention or prison terms or on parole. Out of the 2,050 relocated persons, 533 have been tried and sentenced and 1,515 are in detention.

I should be grateful if you would have the present letter circulated as a document of the Security Council.

(Signed) Vladislav JOVANOVIC
Chargé d'affaires a.i.

00-34796 (E) 170300

UNITED NATIONS **S**

Security Council

Distr.
GENERAL

S/2000/223
17 March 2000

ORIGINAL: ENGLISH

LETTER DATED 13 MARCH 2000 FROM THE SECRETARY-GENERAL ADDRESSED TO THE PRESIDENT OF THE SECURITY COUNCIL

I have the honour to refer to the command of the United Nations Truce Supervision Organization (UNTSO).

Major General Timothy Roger Ford of Australia, who has been Chief of Staff of UNTSO since 1 April 1998, will relinquish his command on 31 March 2000. Following consultations with the Governments concerned, it is my intention to appoint Major-General Franco Ganguzza of Italy as the next Chief of Staff of UNTSO.

I should be grateful if you would bring this matter to the attention of the members of the Security Council.

(Signed) Kofi A. ANNAN

00-34808 (E) 170300

UNITED NATIONS **S**

Security Council

Distr.
GENERAL

S/2000/224
17 March 2000

ORIGINAL: ENGLISH

LETTER DATED 17 MARCH 2000 FROM THE PRESIDENT OF THE SECURITY COUNCIL ADDRESSED TO THE SECRETARY-GENERAL

I have the honour to inform you that your letter dated 13 March 2000 (S/2000/223), regarding your intention to appoint Major-General Franco Ganguzza of Italy as the next Chief of Staff of the United Nations Truce Supervision Organization (UNTSO), has been brought to the attention of the members of the Council. They take note of the intention contained in your letter.

(Signed) Anwarul Karim CHOWDHURY
President of the Security Council

00-34814 (E) 170300

UNITED NATIONS **S**

Security Council

Distr.
GENERAL

S/2000/225
17 March 2000
ENGLISH
ORIGINAL: FRENCH

LETTER DATED 15 MARCH 2000 FROM THE PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE OF GABON TO THE UNITED NATIONS ADDRESSED TO THE PRESIDENT OF THE SECURITY COUNCIL

I have just read, with the greatest possible attention, the report of the Panel of Experts established by the Security Council pursuant to resolution 1237 (1999) of 7 May 1999 (S/2000/203).

Paragraph 63 of the report states that 150,000 litres of fuel were reportedly delivered to UNITA from Libreville, Gabon. Likewise, paragraph 67 indicates that Gabon served as a refuelling destination for the aircraft from Eastern Europe used by UNITA.

To my great amazement, the facts reported in such a manner are not supported by any precise details that might enable my Government to shed light on these allegations, which, as you can imagine, have serious consequences.

Accordingly, we should like to know, for example, the exact dates involved and the type and registration numbers of the aircraft in question. Furthermore, by what means (aircraft or ship) were the 150,000 litres of fuel reportedly delivered to UNITA, inasmuch as the Gabonese State does not have such transport facilities?

These details, once they have been verified, would help us to determine the possible responsibilities involved, particularly if the competent services were misled or if their good faith was called into question.

I should be grateful if you would have this letter distributed as a document of the Security Council.

(Signed) Denis DANGUE REWAKA
Ambassador
Permanent Representative

00-34875 (E) 170300

United Nations S/2000/226

Security Council

Distr.: General
20 March 2000
English
Original: Arabic

Identical letters dated 15 March 2000 from the Permanent Representative of Iraq to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General and to the President of the Security Council

On instructions from my Government, I have the honour to transmit to you herewith a letter dated 14 March 2000 from Mr. Mohammed Said Al-Sahaf, Minister for Foreign Affairs of Iraq. The Minister calls attention to the aggression committed by United States and British aircraft against civilian and services-related installations in Iraq on 11 March 2000, when a railway station and a date-palm plantation were targeted and eight Iraqi civilians were wounded, and he urges you to intervene with a view to halting such acts of aggression.

I should be grateful if you would have the present letter and its annex circulated as a document of the Security Council.

(*Signed*) Saeed H. **Hasan**
Ambassador
Permanent Representative

00-35073 (E) 210300 210300

Annex

Identical letters dated 14 March 2000 from the Minister for Foreign Affairs of Iraq addressed to the Secretary-General and to the President of the Security Council

Further to my letter of 21 February 2000 (S/2000/144, annex), I should like to inform you that eight Iraqi civilians were wounded in the latest act of malicious aggression committed by United States and British aircraft, which took place on 11 March 2000. Details of this criminal act are given hereunder.

1. From 1415 hours on 11 March 2000, United States and British aircraft flew 28 sorties from Saudi territory and 12 from Kuwaiti territory with the support of two reconnaissance aircraft, an AWACS operating inside Saudi airspace and an E-2C operating inside Kuwaiti airspace. They overflew the Basrah, Dhi Qar, Muthanna, Qadisiyah, Najaf and Maysan governorates and attacked civilian and services-related installations, targeting a railway station and a date-palm plantation. Eight Iraqi civilians, six of them railway employees, were wounded by missiles that impacted at the railway station near Sawah Lake, some 320 kilometres south of Baghdad. Two farmers working in a date-palm plantation at Fahd village near the town of Samawah were hurt when missiles impacted in the village. The total number of sorties flown from Saudi and Kuwaiti territory by the United States and the United Kingdom since their major and brutal aggression of 17 December 1998 is thus 15,979.

2. From 1130 hours on the same day, United States and British aircraft flew 16 missions from Turkish territory with the support of an AWACS reconnaissance aircraft operating inside Turkish airspace and overflew the Dohuk, Irbil and Ninawa governorates. The total number of these hostile sorties flown from Turkish territory by the United States and the United Kingdom since their major and brutal aggression of 17 December 1998 is thus 3,490.

The aggression of the United States and the United Kingdom against a steadfast Iraq has come to constitute a fixed policy for the achievement of their political objectives aimed at undermining the country's sovereignty, independence and territorial integrity. By the most elementary standards governing international intercourse, the declared policy of the leaders of the two countries in question constitutes flagrant violation of the Charter of the United Nations and all the principles of international law and prevailing international conventions affirming that the use or threat of use of force against the integrity or independence of any State must be rejected.

The logistic support provided by Saudi Arabia, Kuwait and Turkey to the Americans and the British makes these countries key partners in the aggression being committed against Iraq, so that they bear international responsibility for these actions.

Viewing the governments of the countries in question as bearing full international responsibility for these acts of aggression and provocation and for their consequences and the damage caused by them, the Government of Iraq reserves in full its inalienable right, in accordance with the Charter of the United Nations, the principles of international law and international conventions, to take the measures necessary to defend the inviolability and sovereignty of Iraq's territory and the

security of its people as well as its right to seek compensation for all the losses it has sustained in human, material and moral terms owing to these same acts, in accordance with the principle of international responsibility.

(*Signed*) Mohammed Said **Al-Sahaf**
Minister for Foreign Affairs
of the Republic of Iraq

United Nations S/2000/227

Security Council

Distr.: General
20 March 2000
English
Original: Arabic

Identical letters dated 15 March 2000 from the Permanent Representative of Iraq to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General and to the President of the Security Council

On instructions from my Government, I have the honour to transmit to you herewith a letter dated 14 March 2000 from Mr. Mohammed Said Al-Sahaf, Minister for Foreign Affairs of Iraq. The Minister calls attention to the ongoing United States and British aggression against Iraq, as represented by the unlawful no-flight zones, and to the fact that United States and British aircraft carried out 274 sorties over the towns and villages of Iraq in the period from 1 to 7 March 2000; and he urges you to intervene with a view to halting these acts of aggression.

I should be grateful if you would have the present letter and its annex circulated as a document of the Security Council.

(Signed) Saeed H. **Hasan**
Ambassador
Permanent Representative

00-35067 (E) 210300 220300

Annex

Identical letters dated 14 March 2000 from the Minister for Foreign Affairs of Iraq addressed to the Secretary-General and to the President of the Security Council

I should like to inform you that United States and British warplanes based in Saudi Arabia, Kuwait and Turkey have continued to violate the airspace of the Republic of Iraq and carried out 274 sorties in the period from 1 to 7 March 2000. One hundred and thirty of these sorties were from Saudi Arabia, 110 were from Kuwait and 34 were from Turkey, as shown hereunder.

1. In the northern region 34 sorties were flown at speeds of 720 to 780 kilometres per hour and at altitudes of 6,000 to 12,000 metres, as follows:

(a) At 1120 hours on 3 March 2000, United States and British F-14, F-15, F-16, Tornado and EA-6B aircraft coming from Turkish territory penetrated Iraq's airspace in the northern region. They carried out 18 missions from Turkish territory, were supported by an AWACS command and control aircraft operating inside Turkish airspace and overflew the Mosul, Dohuk, Tall Afar, Irbil, Aqrah, Amadiyah, Rawanduz and Zakho areas. Our air defences, acting in self-defence, engaged the aircraft and, at 1410 hours, drove them off.

(b) At 1040 hours on 7 March 2000, United States and British F-15, Tornado and EA-6B aircraft coming from Turkish territory penetrated Iraq's airspace in the northern region. They carried out 16 missions from Turkish territory, were supported by an AWACS command and control aircraft operating inside Turkish airspace and overflew the Mosul, Dohuk, Tall Afar, Irbil, Aqrah, Amadiyah and Zakho areas. Our air defences, acting in self-defence, engaged the aircraft and, at 1350 hours, drove them off.

2. In the southern region 240 sorties were flown at speeds of 720 to 780 kilometres per hour and at altitudes of 9,000 to 13,000 metres, as follows:

(a) At 1410 hours on 2 March 2000, United States and British F-14, F-15, F-18, Tornado and EA-6B aircraft coming from Saudi and Kuwaiti territory penetrated Iraq's airspace in the southern region. They carried out 20 missions, six of them from Saudi territory with the support of an AWACS command and control aircraft operating inside Saudi airspace and 14 from Kuwaiti territory with the support of an E-2C command and control aircraft operating inside Kuwaiti airspace. They overflew the Basrah, Nasiriyah, Samawah, Salman, Artawi, Qal'at Salih, Jalibah and Qurnah areas. Our air defences, acting in self-defence, engaged the aircraft and, at 1510 hours, drove them off.

(b) At 1110 hours on 3 March 2000, United States and British F-16, F-18, Tornado and EA-6B aircraft coming from Saudi and Kuwaiti territory penetrated Iraq's airspace in the southern region. They carried out 44 missions, 22 of them from Saudi territory with the support of an AWACS command and control aircraft operating inside Saudi airspace and 22 from Kuwaiti territory with the support of an E-2C command and control aircraft operating inside Kuwaiti airspace. They overflew the Lasaf, Ashbajah, Shinafiyah, Artawi, Salman, Busayyah, Samawah, Amghar, Basrah, Jalibah, Nasiriyah, Shatrah, Qurnah, Amarah, Rumaythah,

Diwaniyah, Qal'at Salih and Afak areas. Our air defences, acting in self-defence, engaged the aircraft and, at 1825 hours, drove them off.

(c) At 1325 hours on 4 March 2000, United States and British F-14, F-15, F-16, F-18, Tornado and EA-6B aircraft coming from Saudi and Kuwaiti territory penetrated Iraq's airspace in the southern region. They carried out 46 missions, 24 of them from Saudi territory with the support of an AWACS command and control aircraft operating inside Saudi airspace and 22 from Kuwaiti territory with the support of an E-2C command and control aircraft operating inside Kuwaiti airspace. They overflew the Samawah, Jalibah, Artawi, Nasiriyah, Basrah, Amarah, Najaf, Qurnah and Rumaythah areas. Our air defences, acting in self-defence, engaged the aircraft and, at 1605 hours, drove them off.

(d) At 1410 hours on 5 March 2000, United States and British F-14, F-15, F-16, F-18, Tornado and EA-6B aircraft coming from Saudi and Kuwaiti territory penetrated Iraq's airspace in the southern region. They carried out 34 missions, 26 of them from Saudi territory with the support of an AWACS command and control aircraft operating inside Saudi airspace and eight from Kuwaiti territory with the support of an E-2C command and control aircraft operating inside Kuwaiti airspace. They overflew the Samawah, Nasiriyah, Basrah, Qurnah, Qal'at Salih, Rifa'i, Diwaniyah, Nukhayb, Salman and Lasaf areas. Our air defences, acting in self-defence, engaged the aircraft and, at 1510 hours, drove them off.

(e) At 1000 hours on 6 March 2000, United States and British F-14, F-15, F-16, Tornado and EA-6B aircraft coming from Saudi and Kuwaiti territory penetrated Iraq's airspace in the southern region. They carried out 34 missions, 18 of them from Saudi territory with the support of an AWACS command and control aircraft operating inside Saudi airspace and 16 from Kuwaiti territory with the support of an E-2C command and control aircraft operating inside Kuwaiti airspace. They overflew the Jalibah, Artawi, Nasiriyah, Basrah, Amarah, Qurnah, Ashbajah, Salman, Shatrah, Lasaf, Shinafiyah, Afak, Taqtaqanah and Rumaythah areas. Our air defences, acting in self-defence, engaged the aircraft and, at 1110 hours, drove them off.

(f) At 0710 hours on 7 March 2000, United States and British F-14, F-15, F-16, Tornado and EA-6B aircraft coming from Saudi and Kuwaiti territory penetrated Iraq's airspace in the southern region. They carried out 62 missions, 34 of them from Saudi territory with the support of an AWACS command and control aircraft operating inside Saudi airspace and 28 from Kuwaiti territory with the support of an E-2C aircraft operating inside Kuwaiti airspace. They overflew the Jalibah, Artawi, Nasiriyah, Basrah, Amarah, Najaf, Samawah, Salman, Diwaniyah, Kut, Qal'at Salih and Nukhayb areas. Our air defences, acting in self-defence, engaged the aircraft and, at 1400 hours, drove them off.

This aggression illustrates the bellicose attitude being maintained by the United States of America and the United Kingdom against Iraq. Since 1992, it has become a fixed policy aimed at undermining the country's sovereignty, independence and territorial integrity and at the systematic and concerted destruction of Iraqi lives, infrastructure and civilian installations. It is a policy that has been affirmed in successive statements made by United States and British officials defending the measures being taken to enforce the no-flight zones.

The Government of Iraq categorically rejects the two so-called no-flight zones, which were imposed by unilateral decision of the United States of America and the United Kingdom and without any legal justification. Iraq rejects all the consequences of this illegal decision and, in particular, the flimsy excuses and pretexts used by these countries in an attempt to justify their military aggression against our country.

The logistic support provided by Saudi Arabia, Kuwait and Turkey to the Americans and the British makes these countries key partners in the aggression being committed against Iraq, so that they bear international responsibility for actions that are deleterious to the people of Iraq.

The Government of Iraq, condemning these acts of aggression against Iraqi civilian installations, urges the Security Council to meet its responsibility for the maintenance of international peace and security by intervening with the governments of the countries in question with a view to inducing them to halt, end and desist from any resumption of their constant and unwarranted aggression against an independent and sovereign State.

(Signed) Mohammed Said **Al-Sahaf**
Minister for Foreign Affairs
of the Republic of Iraq

United Nations S/2000/228

Security Council

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20 March 2000
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Letter dated 15 March 2000 from the Permanent Representative of Belgium to the United Nations addressed to the President of the Security Council

With reference to the Security Council debate on the report of the Panel of Experts on Violations of Security Council Sanctions against UNITA (S/2000/203), I have the honour to request you to have the attached letter circulated as a Security Council document.

(Signed) André **Adam**
Ambassador
Permanent Representative

00-35102 (E) 210300 210300

Annex

Letter dated 15 March 2000 from the Permanent Representative of Belgium to the United Nations addressed to the President of the Security Council

I have the honour to refer to the report of the Panel of Experts on Violations of Security Council Sanctions against UNITA (S/2000/203). My country is aware of the unspeakable ordeal inflicted on men, women and children in Angola. That is why Belgium fully and firmly supports the goals pursued by the authors of the report, and agrees with them that the effectiveness of the Security Council sanctions must be enhanced and that monitoring measures must be improved.

It is in this spirit that Belgium regrets the omission of important information from the report, and the inclusion of some unsubstantiated information.

The Belgian Government has indeed assumed its responsibilities, taking very seriously the United Nations sanctions regime as soon as sanctions were imposed.

Three major elements seem to be missing from the report:

(1) After several preparatory meetings, an inter-ministerial working group, known as the "task force", was established in January 2000. This task force has met five times since the beginning of the year. It includes representatives of all the ministries and services concerned. It has considered and adopted several measures aimed at improving the regime for monitoring the origin of diamonds. These measures include, *inter alia*, enhanced controls by the customs services and the Ministry of Economic Affairs, as well as the establishment of a certification mechanism with the Luanda authorities. Other measures, of an administrative nature, are being considered within the task force.

Even before the establishment of the task force, the existing controls had resulted in the seizure of illegal diamonds. In the wake of action taken by the task force, customs and judicial investigations were instituted against various persons suspected of trafficking in diamonds.

(2) During discussions held quite recently between the Minister for Foreign Affairs, Mr. Louis Michel, and the management of the High Diamond Council, the Council undertook to review its procedures, at the insistence of the Belgian Government. One of the decisions was to establish a second working group to include representatives of the Belgian Government and the Council, with the mission of preparing a programme of action and further measures.

(3) Moreover, the Belgian Government has cooperated fully, from the outset, with the Chairman of the sanctions Committee. In February 2000, that Chairman was informed orally and in writing of the most recent measures taken by the Government, in an update to the information already available to the Committee. Those measures were made public in a press release issued by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs in Brussels on 3 March 2000.

In addition, the Panel of Experts was provided with several pieces of information concerning Belgians — or other persons who might have Belgian nationality — operating abroad. The report fails to mention this cooperation, as well as the ongoing elaboration of an effective law on extraterritoriality for offences

involving illegal diamond trading. There is also a draft agreement between the High Diamond Council and the relevant judicial authorities regarding prosecution for diamond-related offences. In paragraph 87, the Panel reports that it "found that the extremely lax controls and regulations governing the Antwerp market facilitate and perhaps even encourage illegal trading activity". Belgium is the only country in the European Union with a mandatory licensing system for the import and export of diamonds, based on two 1962 laws and several royal and ministerial decrees (1987, 1993, 1995 and 1997). All trading in diamonds with countries not members of the European Union is subject to that regime. Moreover, there is a monitoring system for all diamond trading within the European Union.

Accordingly, the Belgian Government is astonished to find no mention by the Panel — or only very partial mention — of those various measures, despite the fact that they were reported in good time. The reference to "unwillingness" of the Belgian authorities effectively to police the smuggling of illegal Angolan diamonds on to the Belgian market (para. 108) therefore does not reflect the facts.

Attention should also be drawn to paragraph 88 of the report. It is quite wrong to state that 4,000 to 5,000 diamond dealers are involved in a so-called "grey" market in Antwerp and are not required to be registered. In effect, all diamond importers and exporters are required to register with the licensing department in Antwerp, which reports directly to the Ministry of Economic Affairs. This, however, does not apply to jewellers. The authors of the report apparently failed to appreciate that distinction.

Although the report refers to the basic problem of identifying the origin of diamonds (paras. 88 and 92), this extremely complex question is not properly developed and is visibly underestimated.

The Belgian Government welcomes the recommendation to convene a conference of experts for the purpose of determining a system of controls that would allow for increased transparency and accountability from the source or origin to the bourses (para. 113). It will participate in the conference and will ensure that Belgian experts make a contribution.

In conclusion and in general, I should like to stress that Belgium appreciates the concrete language used in the report, for it helps to update the working methods of the Security Council. At the same time, it regrets that the report makes no mention of the factual — and, in our opinion, essential — information reported by my delegation here in New York and during visits to Brussels and Antwerp by the authors of the report.

Belgium therefore requests that, during the Security Council debate, the report be supplemented to take the above factors into account.

Lastly, Belgium reiterates that it is fully prepared to work in close collaboration with the sanctions Committee. It agrees that armed conflicts should be settled through a political approach that does not ignore the perverse economic mechanisms that fuel conflicts.

(Signed) André **Adam**
Ambassador
Permanent Representative

United Nations S/2000/229

Security Council

Distr.: General
20 March 2000
English
Original: French

Letter dated 17 March 2000 from the Chargé d'Affaires a.i. of the Permanent Mission of the Democratic Republic of the Congo to the United Nations addressed to the President of the Security Council

Acting on instructions from my Government, I regret to inform you that, on Tuesday 14 March 2000, troops of the Rwandan Patriotic Army entered two Congolese towns, one being the town of Idumbe on the river Sankuru about 100 kilometres upstream from the river port of Ilebo in the province of Kasai-Occidental.

These new attacks once again sowed death and destruction. The Democratic Republic of the Congo is therefore mourning the deaths of hundreds of people, both civilians and military personnel.

The Government of the Democratic Republic of the Congo wishes to remind the Security Council that it is determined to fulfil the commitments it has undertaken within the context of the Lusaka Agreement, in particular the calendar thereof which was revised at the Lusaka Summit of 23 February 2000, and to assume the responsibilities placed on it by Security Council resolution 1291 (2000) of 24 February 2000.

The Government of the Democratic Republic of the Congo invites the Council to note that Rwanda has clearly expressed a determination to obstruct the United Nations Organization Mission in the Democratic Republic of the Congo (MONUC) in the context of the extension of the latter's mandate under Security Council resolution 1291 (2000).

With these new violations of the ceasefire, Rwanda is clearly trying to prevent any further deployment of the United Nations Mission in the Democratic Republic of the Congo, *inter alia* in the context of the third phase thereof.

In the light of the foregoing, the Government of the Democratic Republic of the Congo asks the Security Council to assume its responsibilities fully and to:

1. Condemn the attack by the armed coalition of Uganda, Rwanda and Burundi on the Democratic Republic of the Congo, which started on 2 August 1998;

2. Take note of and strongly condemn this further flagrant violation by Rwanda of the Lusaka Agreement and of the relevant provisions of Security Council resolution 1291 (2000);

00-35079 (E) 200300 200300

3 Demand that Rwanda comply strictly with the Lusaka Agreement and the relevant provisions of Security Council resolution 1291 (2000), on pain of appropriate sanctions;

4. Demand the immediate disengagement of the regular Rwandan troops and their redeployment to the positions they occupied prior to 1 March 2000.

My Government requests you to have this letter circulated as a document of the Security Council.

(Signed) Ileka **Atoki**
Minister-Counsellor
Chargé d'affaires a.i.

United Nations S/2000/230

Security Council

Distr.: General
20 March 2000

Original: English

Letter dated 17 March 2000 from the Permanent Representative of Portugal to the United Nations addressed to the President of the Security Council

Acting under instructions from my Government, I should like to refer to the report of the panel of experts on violations of Security Council sanctions against UNITA (S/2000/203), which was circulated on 14 March. While recalling the statement made by the United States representative on behalf of the "Troika" during the Security Council open meeting on Angola held on 15 March, I have been asked to make the following points:

The Government of Portugal has always extended full cooperation to the sanctions Committee, providing the required information and enacting all the specific measures determined by the relevant Security Council resolutions, as well as through the enforcement of the related national legislation. This was further demonstrated in October 1999 during the visit to Portugal of Ambassador Anders Möllander, Chairman of the Panel of Experts established by the Security Council pursuant to resolution 1237 (1999), when he was briefed on the extent of the steps taken in this regard.

The Government of Portugal, nevertheless, considers that paragraph 147 of the said report contains references which are both misleading and inaccurate. It is unacceptable that a document of this nature be drafted on the basis of unsubstantiated allegations.

In particular, the Government of Portugal objects to the last sentence of that paragraph, in which Portugal is regarded as "a key country for UNITA in terms of mobilising political support, and also a source of commercial and logistical support". There is absolutely no evidence that Portugal is or has been used as a platform for the violation of the current sanctions against UNITA, and the Government of Portugal believes that an explanation concerning the factual grounds that may have led to such an allegation is warranted.

The Government of Portugal reiterates its full commitment to a transparent and fruitful cooperation with the sanctions Committee in the future.

00-35096 (E) 210300

I should be grateful if you would have the present letter circulated as a document of the Security Council.

(*Signed*) António **Monteiro**
Permanent Representative of Portugal
to the United Nations

United Nations S/2000/231

Security Council

Distr.: General
20 March 2000

Original: English

Report of the Secretary-General concerning the credentials of the representative of France on the Security Council

Pursuant to rule 15 of the provisional rules of procedure of the Security Council, the Secretary-General wishes to report that he has received credentials signed on 5 January 2000 by the President, the Prime Minister and the Minister for Foreign Affairs of France stating that Mr. Jean-David Levitte has been appointed representative of France on the Security Council.

In the opinion of the Secretary-General, these credentials are in order.

00-35085 (E) 200300

United Nations A/54/806–S/2000/232

General Assembly
Security Council

Distr.: General
21 March 2000
English
Original: French

General Assembly
Fifty-fourth session
Agenda item 48
The situation of democracy and human rights in Haiti

Security Council
Fifty-fifth year

Letter dated 17 March 2000 from the Permanent Representative of Portugal to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

I have the honour to bring to your attention the statement on the postponement of legislative and local elections in Haiti issued on 15 March 2000 by the Presidency of the European Union on behalf of the European Union (see annex).

I should be grateful if you would have the text of this letter and its annex circulated as a document of the Security Council and the General Assembly.

(Signed) António **Monteiro**
Permanent Representative
of Portugal to the United Nations

00-35423 (E) 230300 230300

Annex

[Original: English and French]

Statement on the postponement of legislative and local elections in Haiti issued on 15 March 2000 by the Presidency of the European Union on behalf of the European Union

The European Union notes the postponement of legislative and local elections in Haiti and the new dates (9 April-21 May 2000) proposed by the Provisional Electoral Council.

It regrets that, 14 months after the Parliament was officially prorogued and one year after the Provisional Electoral Council was appointed, the Haitian authorities have, despite large-scale international aid, still been unable to fulfil all the conditions necessary for the holding of fair, just and transparent elections even though the people have demonstrated their keen interest and their sense of responsibility in registering in large numbers and the political parties have stated their willingness to engage in consultations.

The integrity of the electoral process requires that this final postponement be kept as short as possible and that the definitive timetable allow the Chamber of Deputies to convene on the second Monday of June 2000, in accordance with the Constitution.

Only when all the constitutional organs of the State are able to function can European aid continue to be provided in full.

The European Union remains prepared to make its contribution to the continuation of the democratic process in Haiti.

The Central and Eastern European countries associated with the European Union, the associated countries Cyprus, Malta and Turkey, and the European Free Trade Association countries members of the European Economic Area align themselves with this statement.

United Nations S/2000/233

Security Council

Distr.: General
21 March 2000
English
Original: French

Letter dated 17 March 2000 from the Permanent Representative of Portugal to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

I have the honour to draw your attention to the statement on the Korean Peninsula issued on 17 March 2000 by the Presidency of the European Union on behalf of the European Union (see annex).

I should be grateful if you would have this letter and its annex circulated as a document of the Security Council.

(*Signed*) António **Monteiro**
Permanent Representative

00-35333 (E) 210300 210300

Annex

[Original: English and French]

Statement on the Korean Peninsula issued on 17 March 2000 by the Presidency of the European Union on behalf of the European Union

The European Union welcomes the proposals made by President Kim Dae-jung in Berlin on 9 March 2000 for peace and reunification on the Korean Peninsula. His Berlin declaration offers clear ways to move forward, and the European Union calls on the Democratic People's Republic of Korea to respond positively and constructively, and without preconditions. Meaningful direct dialogue between North and South Korea is vital to this process.

The European Union also calls on the Democratic People's Republic of Korea to seize the opportunities offered by the planned high-level meeting with the United States of America to reduce tension and enhance regional stability.

A constructive approach by the Democratic People's Republic of Korea on these two issues is crucial also to the development of its relations with European Union countries and with the European Union as a whole.

The Central and Eastern European countries associated with the European Union, the associated countries Cyprus, Malta and Turkey and the European Free Trade Association countries members of the European Economic Area, align themselves with this statement.

United Nations S/2000/234

Security Council

Distr.: General
21 March 2000

Original: English

Letter dated 21 March 2000 from the Permanent Representative of Rwanda to the United Nations addressed to the President of the Security Council

On instructions from my Government, I hereby wish to complain in the strongest terms about serious verifiable violations of the Lusaka Ceasefire Agreement by the Kabila forces, yet again, over the last three consecutive days in the Kabalo area, northern Katanga region.

Indeed, Mr. President, for the last three consecutive days, the Kabila forces, that is one battalion of the Forces Armées Congolaises (FAC), one battalion of ex-Rwandese Armed Forces (FAR) and the Interahamwe, two battalions of Burundi rebels (FDD) from their positions at Kabumba, south of Kabalo, have been attacking forces of the Congolese Rally for Democracy (RCD) in that sector and have continued to push forward. As of today they are at a place called Luizi, which is behind our own lines on the Kabalo-Nyunzu road.

We wish to inform you that this will not be tolerated further and that it should be condemned by the Security Council.

My Government requests that the present letter be circulated by your kind offices as a document of the Security Council.

(Signed) Joseph W. **Mutaboba**
Ambassador
Permanent Representative

00-35339 (E) 210300

United Nations S/2000/235

Security Council

Distr.: General
21 March 2000

Original: English

Letter dated 20 March 2000 from the Secretary-General addressed to the President of the Security Council

Pursuant to Security Council resolution 1244 (1999) of 10 June 1999, I have the honour to convey the attached report on the international security presence in Kosovo covering the period from 24 January to 22 February 2000.

I should be grateful if you would bring it to the attention of the members of the Security Council.

(*Signed*) Kofi A. **Annan**

00-35393 (E) 220300

Annex

Monthly report to the United Nations on the operations of the Kosovo Force

1. During the reporting period (24 January-22 February) approximately 45,000 Kosovo Force (KFOR) troops were deployed in theatre, with no major deployment changes since the last report. Russian troops remain unable to deploy into the area around Orahovac, and efforts continue to be made to find a complete resolution to this deployment problem.

Security

2. During the period, there was an upswing in the level of ethnic violence in the province, particularly in Kosovska Mitrovica, in Multinational Brigade (MNB) (North), where two separate outbreaks of violence resulted in the death of 5 civilians, the wounding of 2 KFOR soldiers and the arrest of 35 Kosovar Albanians and 3 Serbs.

3. The first outbreak of violence took place during the night of 3/4 February, and is generally believed to have been in reaction to a rocket attack against a bus transporting Kosovar Serbs from Mitrovica to Banja on 3 February. That attack left two Serbs dead and three wounded, one seriously. During the evening of 3 February, there were numerous shooting incidents in Mitrovica and demonstrations near the city centre. KFOR troops were fired at, and representatives from many of the international organizations had to be evacuated. The violence eventually died down in the early hours of 4 February. The KFOR Commander imposed a curfew on the city, and KFOR troops increased their patrols in and around Mitrovica. The situation in the city remained tense but calm until the second such incident, which took place on 13 February and which began with an explosion and gunshots in the northern part of the city. Seven Albanians were injured, three seriously. Later that morning, KFOR troops were injured by sniper fire. Two snipers were captured; both were wounded, and one subsequently died of his injuries. Both were Kosovar Albanians. In response to this second wave of violence, KFOR troops maintained a heavy presence on the streets, conducting foot patrols, vehicle checkpoints and static guard at homes and businesses in minority neighbourhoods. On 20 February, in order to improve security in Mitrovica, the KFOR Commander launched Operation Ibar, in which part of the city was cordoned off and buildings were searched. KFOR will continue to take firm action against any individual or group seeking to incite violence or unrest.

4. On 21 February, between 20,000 and 30,000 people marched from Pristina to Vucitrn and subsequently took part in demonstrations in Mitrovica. The march was conducted peacefully and, in Mitrovica, the demonstrators dispersed following an address by the KFOR Commander and the Special Representative of the Secretary-General.

5. Apart from the Mitrovica incidents, over the reporting period there were arson attacks on Serb and Roma houses in the Lipljan and Orahovac areas. In Gnjilane, in MNB (East), there were three grenade attacks against Serb houses.

6. During the reporting period there were a number of attacks against KFOR troops in MNB (East) and, as reported above, in MNB (North), in Mitrovica.

7. KFOR continues to work closely with the United Nations Mine Action Coordination Centre and other demining organizations in Kosovo. By 23 February, 8,058 anti-personnel mines, 5,692 anti-tank mines and 8,844 bomblets had been cleared. KFOR troops continue to focus on the eradication of the threat from cluster-bomb units, with ordnance disposal teams destroying bomblets marked during the winter.

8. KFOR troops continue to uncover and to confiscate caches of weapons throughout the area of operations on a regular basis. During the searches in Mitrovica, 17 AK-47s, 1 M-59 rifle and ammunition, 3 Dragonov guns, 4 rocket launchers, 13 hand grenades, 173 inert mines and other assorted munitions were discovered. During search operations in Kravarica and Kosovska Kamenica, ammunition and military equipment were confiscated.

9. KFOR troops provide appropriate control of Kosovo's internal boundaries and external borders. No violations of Security Council resolution 1160 (1998) of 31 March 1998 have been reported, although it is deemed likely that there might be some limited weapon smuggling across the border on foot.

Cooperation and compliance by the parties

10. The Kosovo Protection Corps (KPC) remained largely compliant during the reporting period, although there was a limited number of proven instances of non-compliance, with some former Kosovo Liberation Army members of KPC involved in undesirable or illegal activities, including ethnic intimidation and protection racketeering. In order to combat non-compliance, the United Nations Interim Administration Mission in Kosovo (UNMIK) and KFOR have developed a draft disciplinary code for KPC, which came into force on 1 March.

11. The key leader and mid-level leader selection phase of KPC has now been completed, and during March and April the KPC leadership will decide on which members remain active and which will become reservists. KFOR will monitor this selection process in order to ensure that the agreed time-lines are met by KPC. Ten per cent of KPC posts will be held open for minority membership, with the intent that minority positions will be distributed evenly across the entire KPC.

12. In general, the Serb army (VJ) and Serb security forces continue to comply with the terms of the military-technical agreement and to be cooperative in their dealings with KFOR. VJ units continued to operate in southern Serbia near the ground safety zone during the reporting period, but this is again assessed as normal seasonal training.

Cooperation with international organizations

13. KFOR continues to provide humanitarian assistance throughout the province on a daily basis, with special focus on the transportation of fuel and firewood. In addition, KFOR troops continue to support food distribution efforts by international organizations and to escort refugees and internally displaced persons.

14. As at 22 February the UNMIK police force numbered 2,052, including 205 border police. The continuing shortfall in the number of police is being filled partially and temporarily by KFOR troops and by the theatre-level multinational specialized units, primarily to provide public security, within means and capabilities, to provide anti-riot capability and to mount search operations. There is an UNMIK requirement for 10 special (riot) police companies, the first of which is not expected to be deployed before early March.

15. KFOR provides daily support to the Kosovo Police School, whose second intake of recruits graduated on 19 February. The third intake of recruits, who began their course on 22 February, numbered 250, of whom 217 were Albanians, 22 Serbs and 11 members of other minorities.

16. Control and monitoring of borders remains a high priority for KFOR, with KFOR troops controlling, patrolling and monitoring border and provincial boundary crossing points. Patrols are stationed on a 24-hour basis at all 12 open border and boundary crossing points; 30 other known border crossing points are closed, and those, as well as the rest of the border area, are monitored by KFOR foot, vehicle and helicopter patrols. With the exception of the Blace border crossing point, all vehicles are thoroughly searched; this is not possible at Blace because of the density of the traffic. However, random searches of vehicles are conducted at Blace, and all vehicles and occupants are subject to a document check. With respect to the border with Albania, KFOR provides permanent manned checkpoints at the two crossing points that are open for traffic. Most of the remaining unmanned crossing points are physically blocked by barriers topped with barbed wire. Through a policy of aggressive patrolling and close liaison with the Albanian border guards, KFOR has been able to severely curtail illegal cross-border activity. KFOR closely coordinates operations at weekly meetings with the Albanian border authorities, the United Nations Border Police and the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe (OSCE), hosted by OSCE at the Morina South border crossing point. KFOR also conducts joint patrols and search operations with UNMIK police.

17. KFOR continues to support UNMIK at all levels of the civil administration. All executive, legislative and judicial structures in Kosovo have now been integrated into the Kosovo-UNMIK Joint Interim Administrative Structure, and the 19 administrative departments of the Structure have been allocated. The expanded Kosovo Transitional Council held its second session on 16 February, with 28 members in attendance. A Catholic representative was present at that meeting for the first time, but no Serb attended. The meeting focused on the situation in Kosovska Mitrovica and specifically on the UNMIK strategy

paper outlining practical steps to restore the security situation in the city.

Return of refugees and displaced persons

18. Between July 1999 and 15 February 2000, the refugee repatriation programme organized by the International Organization for Migration (IOM) and the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) assisted in 132,000 voluntary returns, primarily from third countries. Between January and mid-February, 6,673 Kosovar Albanians returned to Kosovo, and KFOR has been working with IOM and UNHCR to ensure that the returns take place safely. As far as the status of internally displaced persons is concerned, in particular Kosovar Serbs, although some initial efforts towards cooperation between Albanians and Serbs have been registered in a number of areas, this is not a general trend. KFOR, UNMIK, UNHCR and OSCE are working closely together to improve conditions for Serb minorities in the Orahovac, Velika Hoc and Djakovica area of responsibility. With respect to Mitrovica, some 1,600 people, mainly Kosovar Albanians, left the northern part of the city in mid-February following the unrest there.

Outlook

19. Ethnically motivated violence continues to be a major concern, with Mitrovica likely to remain a flashpoint for the near future. KFOR, in close coordination with UNMIK, will continue to implement measures to prevent any further widespread violence there and to reinforce stability and security in the province.

United Nations S/2000/236

Security Council

Distr.: General
22 March 2000

Original: English

Letter dated 21 March 2000 from the Secretary-General addressed to the President of the Security Council

I have the honour to convey the attached communication, dated 16 March 2000, which I have received from the Acting Permanent Representative of Australia to the United Nations.

I should be grateful if you would bring it to the attention of the members of the Security Council.

(*Signed*) Kofi A. **Annan**

00-35616 (E) 230300

Annex

Letter dated 16 March 2000 from the Chargé d'affaires a.i. of the Permanent Mission of Australia to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

In accordance with Security Council resolution 1264 (1999), I attach the seventh (and final) periodic report on the operations of the International Force, East Timor (INTERFET) (see appendix). I would appreciate your making this report available to the Security Council.

(*Signed*) David **Stuart**
Chargé d'affaires a.i.
Acting Permanent Representative

Appendix

Seventh periodic report to the United Nations on the operations of the International Force, East Timor

1-23 February 2000

Introduction

1. The International Force, East Timor (INTERFET) has achieved its United Nations mandate. A number of INTERFET force elements have now completed transition to a United Nations peacekeeping force under the United Nations Transitional Administration in East Timor (UNTAET). This will be the final periodic report to the United Nations on INTERFET operations.

2. The sixth periodic report (S/2000/92) noted that INTERFET had fulfilled its mandate under Security Council resolution 1264 (1999) to restore peace and security to all parts of East Timor, except in some areas of the border region of the Oecussi enclave. The security situation in East Timor was benign, but security in the enclave border areas alone remained a concern for INTERFET and would require continuing close attention by UNTAET.

3. The sixth period report also noted that INTERFET had fully satisfied its mandate to support wider United Nations operations and humanitarian assistance programmes. INTERFET also undertook a wide range of supporting activities that made a significant contribution to the restoration of peace, civil reconstruction and the administration of justice.

4. The success of INTERFET is attributed to: the performance by INTERFET commanders and national contingents; the continuing resolve and commitment shown by the United Nations and the international community; cooperation from the Government of Indonesia; and the courage and resilience of the East Timorese people.

Transition to UNTAET

5. On 23 February 2000, INTERFET formally transferred full responsibility for military security in all parts of East Timor to the United Nations peacekeeping force under UNTAET. The transition was effected by the signing of a joint operational transition declaration by the Commander of INTERFET, the Commander of the UNTAET peacekeeping force and the Special Representative of the Secretary-General.

6. The transition process followed a joint transition plan agreed by the United Nations and INTERFET on 9 January 2000. The plan provided for concurrent INTERFET and United Nations peacekeeping forces headquarters and the progressive transfer of responsibility for geographic regions from one force to the other. The Eastern Sector of INTERFET transferred control to the UNTAET peacekeeping force on 1 February, followed by the Central Sector on 14 February and the Oecussi enclave on 15 February. The Western Sector, covering the border region with western Timor, transferred control to UNTAET on 21 February, with the logistics and supporting elements transferring on 23 February 2000.

Operation overview and lessons learned

7. INTERFET's achievement of its mandate in a short period of time resulted from its clear, appropriate mandate and the professional composition of the INTERFET force. The diverse coalition of 22 nations, which included significant regional representation, was assembled and deployed very quickly, and at its peak consisted of nearly 10,000 personnel. The present report affords a timely opportunity to outline INTERFET's key assessments and lessons learned.

Coalition matters

8. The deployment of a multinational force in East Timor served the purpose of providing a rapid response to an immediate humanitarian crisis, while simultaneously allowing the United Nations time to assemble a "blue beret" peacekeeping force and develop longer-term strategies. INTERFET's experience demonstrated the significant advantages of selecting a coalition leader from the immediate region. These include proximity to the crisis zone and an attendant ability for the coalition leader to respond

quickly to a crisis, commensurate with a more specific knowledge of the conditions surrounding the intervention. The coalition leader must be able to contribute a large proportion of the initial force and needs to provide ongoing logistic support to the operation.

Mandate, mission and end state

9. INTERFET benefited from having a clear United Nations mandate and operational end state. Security Council resolution 1264 (1999) provided INTERFET with an unambiguous mission statement, while resolution 1272 (1999) gave INTERFET a clear end state and identified the preconditions necessary to transfer military responsibility to UNTAET. These factors were vital in the development and implementation of military plans for the operation and transition.

10. The establishment of both resolutions under a Chapter VII mandate was also important in giving INTERFET the powers and range of response options necessary to achieve its mission. INTERFET's ability under Chapter VIII of the Charter of the United Nations to deliver appropriate force decisively and quickly was critical to success and the prevention of widespread loss of life.

11. It is important that the designation of a mission as Chapter VI or Chapter VII be considered carefully in each instance. However, INTERFET's experience in East Timor shows that where doubt exists, a Chapter VII mandate can deliver great benefits to the force commander and contribute to the rapid achievement of operational goals. The benefits of a Chapter VII mandate arise from the flexibility and range of response options available to the force commander. In all cases the response should be proportional and graduated. By contrast, a force commander operating under a Chapter VI mandate has fewer response options available to address potentially the same range of security-related scenarios as those encountered under a Chapter VII mandate.

Media profile

12. INTERFET's experience illustrates that the establishment of a positive global media profile can be highly beneficial to a mission's success. A positive profile assists the process of coalition-building, by reassuring potential troop-contributing nations of the merits and management of the mission. INTERFET was proactive in establishing a positive public profile and facilitated the provision of information on issues of general interest, provided support to the media contingent, provided timely responses to inquiries and ensured media access to senior mission officers.

Transition arrangements

13. The transition arrangements implemented by INTERFET and UNTAET were unique and proved to be very effective. INTERFET and UNTAET peacekeeping forces executed a progressive transition of security responsibility, rather than the traditional comprehensive, single-step transition. This approach enabled the embryonic UNTAET peacekeeping operation headquarters to accept responsibility in a phased manner commensurate with its developing capability and the progressive handover to the new force headquarters and resulted in an effective transfer of operational responsibility.

Conclusion

14. INTERFET has restored peace and security to East Timor, assisted with national reconstruction and humanitarian relief operations, and created an environment conducive to the resumption of normal activities by the local population. INTERFET commends the contribution made to the achievement of its mandate by the 22 countries constituting the multinational force.

United Nations S/2000/237

Security Council

Distr.: General
22 March 2000
English
Original: Spanish

Letter dated 13 March 2000 from the Permanent Representative of Cuba to the United Nations addressed to the President of the Security Council

I have the honour, with reference to document S/2000/40, dated 15 February 2000, containing a summary statement on matters of which the Security Council is seized and on the stage reached in their consideration, to inform you that the Government of Cuba wishes to have retained on the list of matters of which the Security Council is seized all the items brought to the attention of the Council by Cuba, as reflected in document S/2000/40.

I should be grateful if you would have this letter circulated as a document of the Security Council.

(*Signed*) Bruno **Rodríguez Parilla**
Ambassador
Permanent Representative

00-35586 (E) 220300 220300

United Nations S/2000/238

Security Council

Distr.: General
22 March 2000
English
Original: Arabic

Letter dated 21 March 2000 from the Chargé d'affaires a.i. of the Permanent Mission of the Libyan Arab Jamahiriya to the United Nations addressed to the President of the Security Council

With reference to paragraph 12 of the summary statement by the Secretary-General on matters of which the Security Council is seized and on the stage reached in their consideration (S/2000/40), I have the honour to inform you that the Libyan Arab Jamahiriya wishes to have the items set forth hereunder retained on the list of matters of which the Council is seized.

9. Letter dated 3 December 1971 from the Permanent Representatives of Algeria, Iraq, the Libyan Arab Republic and the People's Democratic Republic of Yemen to the United Nations addressed to the President of the Security Council (S/10409).

17. Request by the Libyan Arab Republic and Pakistan for consideration of the serious situation arising from recent developments in the occupied Arab territories (S/12017).

22. Letter dated 19 February 1983 from the Permanent Representative of the Libyan Arab Jamahiriya to the United Nations addressed to the President of the Security Council (S/15615).

23. Letter dated 8 August 1983 from the Chargé d'affaires a.i. of the Permanent Mission of the Libyan Arab Jamahiriya to the United Nations addressed to the President of the Security Council (S/15914).

25. Letter dated 22 March 1984 from the Chargé d'affaires a.i. of the Permanent Mission of the Libyan Arab Jamahiriya to the United Nations addressed to the President of the Security Council (S/16431).

28. Letter dated 15 April 1986 from the Chargé d'affaires a.i. of the Permanent Mission of the Libyan Arab Jamahiriya to the United Nations addressed to the President of the Security Council (S/17991).

31. Letter dated 4 January 1989 from the Chargé d'affaires a.i. of the Permanent Mission of the Libyan Arab Jamahiriya to the United Nations addressed to the President of the Security Council (S/20364).

00-35598 (E) 220300 220300

I should be grateful if you would have this letter circulated as a document of the Security Council.

(*Signed*) Isa Ayad **Babaa**
Chargé d'affaires a.i.

United Nations S/2000/239

Security Council

Distr.: General
22 March 2000

Original: English

Letter dated 22 March 2000 from the Chargé d'affaires a.i. of the Permanent Mission of Uganda to the United Nations addressed to the President of the Security Council

On instructions from my Government, I have the honour to refer to the letter dated 17 March 2000 from the Chargé d'affaires a.i. of the Permanent Mission of the Democratic Republic of the Congo to the United Nations, in which he alleges that the troops of the Rwandan Patriotic Army entered two Congolese towns. In an allegation which has nothing to do with Uganda, the Chargé d'affaires drags in the name of my country towards the end of his letter and calls on the Security Council to condemn Uganda.

The Government of Uganda would like to make it clear that it objects and rejects categorically such allegations and insinuations, which are divisive and not conducive to solving the main problem in the Democratic Republic of the Congo. Uganda wishes to state that it is totally committed to the Lusaka ceasefire agreement and peace process and the relevant Security Council resolutions in resolving the current crisis in the Democratic Republic of the Congo. Uganda, therefore, calls upon the Government of the Democratic Republic of the Congo and all signatories to the Lusaka ceasefire agreement to honour and abide by the agreement so that a durable solution can be found.

I should be grateful if you would have this letter circulated as a document of the Security Council.

(*Signed*) Fred **Beyendeza**
Chargé d'affaires a.i.

00-35604 (E) 220300

United Nations S/2000/240

Security Council

Distr.: General
22 March 2000

Original: English

Note verbale dated 22 March 2000 from the Permanent Mission of Bulgaria to the United Nations addressed to the President of the Security Council

In connection with paragraph 23 of Security Council resolution 864 (1993) concerning the situation in Angola, by which States are requested to cooperate fully with the Security Council Committee established pursuant to the above resolution, including informing it of the action taken by them for the implementation of measures imposed under paragraph 19, the Permanent Mission of Bulgaria to the United Nations has the honour to submit the following information.

On 17 March 2000, immediately following its acquaintance with the report of the Panel of Experts on Violations of Security Council Sanctions against UNITA contained in document S/2000/203 of 10 March 2000, the Government of Bulgaria decided to set up a special interdepartmental commission to investigate the allegations raised in the above report against Bulgaria. The Commission, chaired by the Minister of Justice, is comprised of representatives of the Ministries of Foreign Affairs, Justice, the Interior, Transport and Defence.

On the basis of the analysis made by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, the newly set up Commission will conduct an investigation into each of the charges.

The Commission will examine thoroughly the work of the Interdepartmental Commission for Control and Permission of Foreign Trade Transactions with Arms and Dual-use Goods and Technologies with the Ministry of Economy. The Commission will not include former or current members of the Commission with the Ministry of Economy involved in the process of issuing licenses and permits for foreign trade in arms.

The Permanent Mission of Bulgaria would be grateful if the present note verbale were circulated as a document of the Security Council.

00-35580 (E) 220300

United Nations S/2000/241

Security Council

Distr.: General
22 March 2000

Original: English

Letter dated 22 March 2000 from the Permanent Representative of Ethiopia to the United Nations addressed to the President of the Security Council

I have the honour to transmit herewith a statement issued on 22 March 2000 by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Ethiopia (see annex).

I should be grateful if you would have the text of this letter and its annex circulated as a document of the Security Council.

(*Signed*) Duri **Mohammed**
Ambassador
Permanent Representative

00-35592 (E) 220300

Annex

Statement issued on 22 March 2000 by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Ethiopia

Almost two years have passed since Eritrea committed an unforgivable crime against Ethiopia. The consequences of the Eritrean aggression have been enormous, both in terms of loss of human lives and in terms of the hope that the peoples of the two countries and those of our subregion in general had started to have about their future.

It has also taken Ethiopia almost two years to try to minimize the damage caused by that crime and that folly committed by the Eritrean leadership — a leadership which has neither accountability nor wisdom. The hands of the Eritrean leadership are indeed drenched with blood. They assume full responsibility, not only for the crime of aggression but also for having been an obstacle to peace since day one. The past two years are littered with lost opportunities for peace — which were wrecked by Eritrea — and for minimizing the damage caused by the madness in Asmara. No amount of chicanery can conceal the fact that not only has the leadership in Eritrea been the cause of the conflict but it has also been the obstacle to the peaceful resolution of the crisis.

In this context, the latest pronouncements from Asmara about the upcoming talks at Algiers appear not altogether strange. They reflect the same mentality which not only Ethiopia but also the facilitators have been used to. That the statement was made in the name of the Council of Ministers — thereby suggesting the existence of debate, consultation and accountability — is rather amusing, but that is beside the point. In any case, it is Eritrea's business if it chooses to have no constitution, no parliament, no mechanism for democratic decision-making and no accountability. What is important, however, is how the Eritrean leadership continues to be incorrigible and beyond redemption.

The Eritrean leadership is once again spoiling to kill whatever opportunities there are for peace. Can one forget, among other things, how one such great opportunity was nipped in the bud by Eritrea in November 1998 at Ouagadougou during the first proximity talks that were held at the highest level under the auspices of the Organization of African Unity (OAU)? Eritrea committed yet another crime at that time, just as it had earlier in August 1998 at the same venue (at a proximity talk at the level of foreign ministers), when it refused to give peace a chance.

Now Eritrea is engaged in posturing and in a game of brinkmanship in an attempt to convince the world that it has been let down by the facilitators. This only shows that the Eritrean leadership is incapable of having common decency, of learning from its mistakes and thus of being remorseful.

The facilitators knew full well that the amendments to the Technical Arrangements are justified, necessary and were demanded by the need to make the Technical Arrangements fully consistent with the basic OAU documents, namely the Framework Agreement and the modalities for its implementation. No generosity was shown to Ethiopia. Rationality prevailed and the facilitators felt that fairness should not be thrown out the window to appease Eritrea.

At no time in the past 22 months has Eritrea ever seized available opportunities for peace based on the full and unequivocal restoration of the status

quo ante. Eritrea knows this is the bottom line for Ethiopia, the victim of Eritrea's crime. No amount of posturing by Eritrea will make Ethiopia deviate from this fundamental principle. As we have always insisted, aggression cannot and will not be rewarded. Moreover, this should not be solely Ethiopia's cause. The defense of principles of international law should be the business of everyone, not only of those directly affected.

The way that this conflict is resolved will have enormous implications for durable peace in our subregion. Given Eritrea's track record, the minimum that can be done as a contribution for the peace of the subregion by all concerned is to convey a clear message to Eritrea that it should not expect its aggression to be rewarded, much less to be congratulated for the crime committed against Ethiopia. It is only then that Eritrea will stop posturing and understand that brinkmanship will not pay.

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Security Council

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Letter dated 22 March 2000 from the Chairman of the Security Council Committee established by resolution 661 (1990) concerning the situation between Iraq and Kuwait addressed to the President of the Security Council

I have the honour to transmit herewith a report of the Security Council Committee established by resolution 661 (1990) concerning the situation between Iraq and Kuwait, pursuant to paragraph 10 of Security Council resolution 1281 (1999) (see annex).

The report was approved by the Committee on 22 March 2000.

(*Signed*) A. Peter **van Walsum**
Chairman
Security Council Committee established by
resolution 660 (1990) concerning the
situation between Iraq and Kuwait

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Annex

Report of the Security Council Committee established by resolution 661 (1990) concerning the situation between Iraq and Kuwait on the implementation of the arrangements in paragraphs 1, 2, 6, 8, 9 and 10 of resolution 986 (1995)

I. Introduction

1. The present report is submitted to the Security Council pursuant to paragraph 10 of resolution 1281 (1999), in which the Committee was requested, in close coordination with the Secretary-General, to report to the Security Council 90 days after the entry into force of paragraph 1 of the above resolution on the implementation of the arrangements in paragraphs 1, 2, 6, 8, 9 and 10 of resolution 986 (1995). By paragraph 1 of resolution 1281 (1999), the Council decided that the provisions of resolution 986 (1995), except those contained in paragraphs 4, 11 and 12, would remain in force for a new period of 180 days beginning at 00.01 hours, Eastern Standard Time, on 12 December 1999.

2. This report, the thirteenth of its kind, covers the Committee's major activities with regard to the implementation of the above arrangements during the first 90-day period of phase VII of the oil-for-food programme after paragraph 1 of resolution 1281 (1999) came into force on 12 December 1999.

II. Sale of petroleum and petroleum products

3. Since the beginning of phase VII the export of petroleum from Iraq has proceeded smoothly, with excellent cooperation among the oil overseers, the independent inspection agents (Saybolt Nederland BV), the Iraqi State Oil Marketing Organization and the national oil purchasers.

4. The overseer continues to advise the Committee on the oil pricing mechanisms, oil contract approval and modifications, management of the revenue objective and other pertinent questions related to export and monitoring, under Security Council resolutions 986 (1995), 1175 (1998) and 1281 (1999).

5. As of 2 March 2000, the Committee, acting under the recommendation of the overseer, has reviewed and approved a total of 96 oil contracts for the sale of oil in phase VII, involving purchasers from 34 countries. The total quantity of oil approved for export under those contracts is approximately 272 million barrels. All contracts submitted used the pricing mechanisms approved by the Committee, on the recommendation of the overseer.

6. As of 2 March 2000, 116 liftings, totalling 141.3 million barrels worth of US$ 3,519 million have been completed. Letters of credit opened for each of the liftings were reviewed and confirmed by the overseer in accordance with the terms and conditions of the approved contracts. About 42 per cent of the liftings were made at Ceyhan in Turkey. At current high prices the total revenue for phase VII is estimated to be around US$ 7.2 billion, including the pipeline fees valued at about US$ 200 million.

7. The overseer has worked with the independent inspection agents (Saybolt Nederland BV) to ensure the effective monitoring of the relevant oil installations and the liftings. They have received the full cooperation of the Iraqi authorities.

8. Pursuant to paragraph 2 of the procedures of the Committee (S/1996/636*), 472 national oil purchasers have been nominated from 67 countries who are authorized to communicate directly with the overseers.

9. Pursuant to paragraph 14 of the procedures of the Committee, the overseer has continued to report to it once a week on the contracts considered by him regarding the sale of petroleum originating in Iraq, including the cumulative quantity and approximate value of petroleum authorized for export. To date, 168 reports have been submitted to the Committee.

10. Since 1 July 1999 there has been only one oil overseer in function. The Committee is concerned about this situation and is committed to find a viable solution on the matter as soon as possible. In the meantime, the remaining overseer attends diligently to his work.

III. Humanitarian supplies to Iraq

11. As in previous phases, during the first 90-day period of phase VII, the Committee continued to attach high priority to the work of processing contracts for the supply of humanitarian goods to Iraq. Since the adoption of resolution 1284 in December 1999, the Committee has been working continuously in close cooperation with the Office of the Iraq Programme with a view to the early implementation of measures provided for in paragraphs 17, 18 and 25 in section C of the resolution.

12. As at 29 February 2000, the Secretariat had received 1,253 applications under phase V for exports of humanitarian supplies to Iraq. Of that total, 97 were subsequently cancelled, 1,125 have been circulated to Committee members for action and 31 are still being processed. Of those sent to the Committee for consideration, 962 have been found eligible for payment from the United Nations Iraq Account, totalling approximately $1.6 billion (including 219 applications worth approximately $344.4 million released from holds); none are still pending under the "no-objection" procedure; and 160, with a total value of $504.2 million, have been placed on hold. During the same period of time, the Secretariat received 1,692 applications under phase VI for exports of humanitarian supplies to Iraq, 1,290 of which have been circulated to Committee members for action and 381 of which are still being processed. Of those sent to the Committee for consideration, 833 have been found eligible for payment from the United Nations Iraq Account, totalling approximately $1.5 billion (including 121 applications worth approximately $182.4 million released from holds). Five are still pending under the "no-objection" procedure; and 399, with a total value of $886.8 million, have been placed on hold.

13. The work of goods-arrival confirmation by the United Nations independent inspection agents (Cotecna) has continued, in accordance with the established procedures, at the four entry points to Iraq, at Al-Walid, Trebil, Umm Qasr and Zakho. As in previous phases, the Iraqi authorities have accorded the independent agents full cooperation in their work. During the second half of phase VI, 4,360 consignments of humanitarian supplies from current and previous phases have been confirmed as having arrived in Iraq in full or partial shipments.

14. Members of the Committee will continue the practice of keeping under review those humanitarian contracts that have been placed on hold. The Committee intends to convene another meeting during this phase to conduct such a review.

IV. Matters relating to oil spare parts and equipment to Iraq

15. The Committee has made continuous efforts to expedite the approval process for contracts for sending oil spare parts and equipment to Iraq in accordance with existing procedures.

16. During the period covered by the present report, the Secretariat has received 885 new applications valued at $565.1 million to export oil spare parts and equipment to Iraq and has circulated 590 applications to the members of the Committee for consideration, including those left from previous resolutions. A total of 346 applications worth $194.3 million have been approved during this period, including 51 applications valued at $39.5 million, which were released from previous holds since the Committee's previous report. At the same time, 347 contracts valued at $220.4 million have been placed on hold (with 42 of them valued at $17 million subsequently released from hold).

17. From the beginning of the process to 29 February 2000, the number of applications received by the Committee to ship oil spare parts and equipment to Iraq under previous resolutions reached a total of 2,181, with a value of $1.2 billion. Of those, 1,706 have been circulated to the members of the Committee for consideration, 13 are being reviewed by customs experts awaiting amendments to the distribution plan, 184 have been returned to the applicant missions for clarification and 60 have been declared null and void. Of the 1,706 applications circulated, 1,128, with a total value of $591.5 million, have been approved; 564, valued at $324.9 million, have been placed on hold; and 14 applications are pending under the "no-objection" procedure. As at 29 February 2000, 509 such shipments have arrived in Iraq in full or in part.

18. Members of the Committee will continue the practice of keeping under review those contracts for oil parts and equipment that have been placed on hold and the Committee intends to convene another meeting during this phase to conduct such a review.

V. Other activities

19. The Committee has held two formal meetings and seven informal consultations at expert level during the reporting period to discuss various issues related to the implementation of the oil-for-food programme. The Committee has considered, *inter alia*, the following issues:

(a) Mr. Benon Sevan, the Executive Director of the Office of the Iraq Programme, briefed the Committee on the steady increase in the number of holds placed on applications for contracts under resolution 986 (1995), as expressed in the Secretary-General's reports S/1999/896 and S/1999/1162. He drew members' attention in particular to the increase in the number of holds under phase VI.

(b) The Committee met a number of times at expert level to discuss matters related to the implementation of section C of resolution 1284 (1999). Members of the Committee considered the draft procedures proposed by the OIP for the implementation of paragraphs 17 and 25 of that resolution and found the draft procedures were generally acceptable. The Committee has approved the lists of foodstuffs and educational items pursuant to paragraph 17 of resolution 1284 (1999) and is now reviewing all humanitarian applications submitted to it within a two working day deadline pursuant to paragraph 25 of resolution 1284 (1999).

(c) Currently, members of the Committee are studying the draft procedures, proposed by the OIP, which are to be employed by the Secretariat for the implementation of paragraph 18 of resolution 1284 (1999) concerning the approval of contracts for parts and equipment necessary to enable Iraq to increase its oil export.

(d) At the same time, members of the Committee are reviewing two more lists of humanitarian items related to agriculture and health which are submitted by the OIP pursuant to paragraph 17 of resolution 1284 (1999).

VI. Conclusions

20. The Committee is committed to work closely with the Office of the Iraq Programme and all parties concerned to ensure the effective implementation of the arrangements in paragraphs 1, 2, 6, 8, 9 and 10 of resolution 986 (1995). The Committee wishes to reiterate its appreciation to all parties concerned for their cooperation and contribution in this regard.